

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IGA-02 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 SS-15 EUR-25 HEW-08

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R 091245Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6938

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SU

SUBJ: SUDANESE DROUGHT REQUEST

REF: STATE 151612

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FONMIN AND MINNAT'L ECONOMY EXPRESS THEIR APPRECIATION FOR POSITIVE RESPONSE TO DROUGHT ASSISTANCE REQUEST AND STATE INTENT TAKE QUICK ACTION TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE USES. GOS STILL EXPECTS UK AND FRG AIRLIFT, BUT RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES HERE UNINFORMED. EMB APPRECIATES USG RESPONSE WHICH IS DEFINITE PLUS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. ACTION REQUESTED: EMB HAS ASSUMED FUND USE IS NOT RESTRICTED TO AIR CHARTER BUT CAN BE USED FOR OTHER MODES TRANSPORTATION CONSISTENT WITH HUMANITARIAN OBJECTIVES. ADVISE IF INCORRECT. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER'S APPRECIATION. CHARGE CALLED ON FONMIN MANSOUR KHALID AUG 8, REVIEWED PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON DROUGHT ASSISTANCE REQUEST HELD WITH GOS OFFICIALS DURING HIS ABSENCE FROM SUDAN, SUMMARIZED EARLIER USG COMMENTS (STATE 138074) ON MAGNITUDE GOS REQUEST, AND INFORMED HIM OF POSITIVE USG RESPONSE IN FORM AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF COUNTERPART FOR EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION COMMODITIES. CHARGE NOTED FAVORABLE USG RESPONSE BASED ON FONMIN'S INITIATIVE

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AND USG CONCERN OVER HUMANITARIAN AND ECONOMIC IMPACT.

CHARGE THEN OUTLINED USES WE THOUGHT GOS MIGHT BE ABLE TO DEVELOP FOR FUNDS SUCH AS LOCAL COSTS OR OFFSETS FOREIGN CHARTER AIRCRAFT, REIMBURSEMENT SUDAN AIR, ETC. FONMIN EXPRESSED HIS THANKS AND PLEASURE AT US RESPONSE NOTING THERE MIGHT INDEED "...BE POSSIBILITIES AND GOS WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE". HE NOTED HE HAD RECENTLY QUERIED BONN AGAIN ON FRG AIRCRAFT AND ALSO EXPECTED UK RESPONSE. FONMIN ALSO WISHED HIS PERSONAL THANKS CONVEYED TO SECRETARY ROGERS FOR USG RESPONSE AND EXPRESSED HOPE HE MIGHT BE ABLE MEET SECRETARY AT UNGA IN SEPTEMBER.

3. CHARGE (AND AAO) SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED ON MINNAT'LECON IB. MONEIM MANSOUR (AUG 9) NOTING USG POSITIVE RESPONSE AND OUR ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN CONCERN. MINISTER (WHO ACCOMPANIED BY DEP MINSUPPLY MUBARAK) EXPRESSED THANKS, SAID US RESPONSE "VERY GOOD," AND STATED GOS WOULD PROCEED IMMEDIATELY EXPLORE USE OF FUNDS FOR CHARTERING COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT (PERHAPS THROUGH UN GOOD OFFICES), USE OF SUDAN AIRWAYS PLANES FOR HIGH PRIORITY ITEMS, LOCAL COSTS OF EXPECTED UK AND FRG MILITARY TRANSPORTS AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION. HE INQUIRED IF FUNDS LIMITED TO AIR TRANSPORT? CHARGE AND AAO RESPONDED OUR ASSUMPTION AIR TRANSPORT MOST NEEDED, BUT USE IN OTHER MODES TRANSPORTATION WITH USG PRIOR APPROVAL WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS. (AS PER PRECEDENT SOUTHER ASSISTANCE, EMB NOTE TO FONMIN DID NOT RESTRICT USE TO CHARTER AIRCRAFT. PLEASE ADVISE IF EMB INTERPRETATION INCORRECT.) IN RESPONSE QUERY, MIN NOTED HE INTENDED GIVE FULL PUBLICITY US ACTION. MEETING ESTABLISHED CHANNEL FOR IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES THROUGH DEPMINSUPPLY AND AAO.

4. FOREIGN AIRCRAFT. MINNAT'LECON MAY BE OVER-OPTIMISTIC ON AVAILABILITY UK AND FRG ACFT. WHEN INFORMED OF GOS EXPECTATIONS, UK EMB STATED ITS QUERIES TO LONDON ON THE MATTER HAVE GONE COMPLETELY UNANSWERED. FRG EMB ALSO PREVIOUSLY UNINFORMED.

5. EMB APPRECIATION. EMB VERY MUCH APPRECIATES REFTTEL AND BELIEVES POSITIVE USG RESPONSE A DEFINITE PLUS TO OUR BILATERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIONS AND WILL HELP MEET DEFINITE HUMANITARIAN AND ECONOMIC NEED.

6. EMB NOTE. FOLLOWING ARE SUBSTANTIVE PORTIONS EMB FIRST PERSON NOTE DELIVERED TO FONMIN AUG 8: "...HONOR REFER TO YOUR MEETING WITH SECSTATE IN WASHINGTON, DC ON JUNE 7, 1973. DURING DISCUSSION, YOU OUTLINED DIFFICULTIES FACED BY SUDANESE AUTHORITIES IN TRANSPORTING RELIEF SUPPLIES

TO AREAS OF SUDAN FACING SEVERE SHORTAGES AS RESULT OF DROUGHT AND OTHER FACTORS AND REQUESTED US ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT FOR LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME IN ORDER MEET EMERGENCY SITUATION. THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDERTOOK TO CONSIDER REQUEST.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, OFFICIALS BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE MET SUBSEQUENTLY ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS TO DISCUSS MAGNITUDE, SCOPE AND SEVERITY OF PROBLEM IN ORDER DETERMINE EXTENT AND MANNER IN WHICH US MIGHT ASSIST SUDAN DURING THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD. AS RESULT THESE CONVERSATIONS, IT APPEARS DIRECT USE AMERICAN TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT IS NOT FEASIBLE. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF CONTINUING SUPPLY SHORTAGES, THE US HAS CONTINUED SEEK ALTERNATIVES IN CONCERT WITH APPROPRIATE SUDANESE AUTHORITIES.

AS A RESULT, I AM PLEASE INFORM YOU THAT USG IS PREPARED AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE BY GOS OF APPROXIMATELY LS 56,806 FOR EFFORTS DIRECTED TO RELIEVING THE SUPPLY SITUATION (INCLUDING CHARTER REIMBURSEMENT OF LOCAL AIRLIFT CARRYING EMERGENCY COMMODITIES INCLUDING FOOD). THESE FUNDS WERE GENERATED BY A PREVIOUS AMERICAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN SUDAN (ICA COMMODITY GRANTS) AND ARE CURRENTLY HELD IN BANK OF SUDAN FOR PURPOSES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS AGREED UPON JOINTLY BY OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. FUNDS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE QUICKLY UIEN#APPROPRIATE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AND MUTUAL AGREEMENT ON THE SPECIFIC TASKS FOR WHICH THE FUNDS WILL BE EXPENDED. IF YOU AGREE WITH THIS PROPOSAL, I SUGGEST THAT PROCEDURES BE IMPLEMENTED IN VERY NEAR FUTURE."FRITTS

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

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